



PRE4CLE

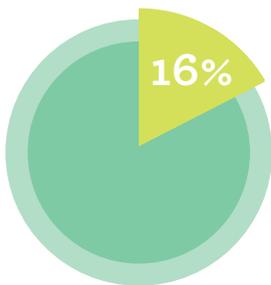


When our smallest students shine, Cleveland thrives.

WHY HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL MATTERS FOR CLEVELAND

In 2013, only 16 percent of Cleveland’s children entering kindergarten tested “fully prepared” to succeed on Ohio’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The Cleveland community has a plan to change this statistic. Research nationally and in Cleveland shows that children entering below the kindergarten readiness level struggle to catch up, often falling behind in reading and math proficiency throughout their school careers, with many ultimately falling short of high school graduation and career readiness.

Only 16% tested fully prepared for kindergarten



What is the best strategy to address the kindergarten readiness gap?

The Answer is Preschool.

Science now shows that the first five years of life are an intense period of neural development in a child’s brain, creating the “infrastructure” that sets the foundation for all later learning.

High-quality preschool is the first step on the education continuum for transforming Cleveland’s educational attainment, providing a strong foundation for K-12 success, and increasing high school graduation and higher education participation rates.

PRE4CLE: EXPANDING HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL IN CLEVELAND

PRE4CLE is the plan to rapidly and efficiently expand access to high-quality preschool in Cleveland.

PRE4CLE was developed as part of *Cleveland’s Plan for Transforming Schools* (the Cleveland Plan), a plan to reinvent public education in the City of Cleveland put in place through the bi-partisan support of the Ohio legislature. The Cleveland Plan called for expanding access to high-quality preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Cleveland to prepare every child to enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.

PRE4CLE partners with public and private preschool providers to help them improve the quality of their programs and expand the number of high-quality seats. PRE4CLE also reaches out to parents and families to provide information about the importance of high-quality preschool and provide the tools and resources families need to find the right preschool for their child.

PRE4CLE only partners with high-quality programs that have at least three stars in Ohio’s Step Up To Quality rating system and have highly-trained teachers, smaller class sizes, and research-based curricula that support all areas of healthy child development.

In the first two years of PRE4CLE’s implementation, 1,420 additional children were enrolled in high-quality preschool. PRE4CLE’s current goal is to increase enrollment in high-quality preschool to 50% of Cleveland’s preschool-aged children by 2020.



PRE4CLE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

Co-chaired by Eric Gordon, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) CEO, and Marcia Egbert, Senior Program Officer of The George Gund Foundation, PRE4CLE is led by the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact. The Compact represents a partnership of public, private, and community stakeholders that have come together to support the rapid expansion of high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4-year-olds in the city of Cleveland. The Compact representatives have decades of combined experience in the areas of early childhood education and public-private partnership.

AN INVESTMENT IN CLEVELAND'S FUTURE

PRE4CLE's success relies on local, state, and federal funding as well as support from corporate and philanthropic partners to fully implement the plan so that our smallest students can shine and Cleveland can thrive. To date, PRE4CLE has identified several available funding sources: \$7.5 million from CMSD; \$1 million from Cuyahoga County; and \$2.1 million in philanthropic and corporate support. PRE4CLE also builds on Cuyahoga County's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program; federal Head Start, child nutrition, and child care funds; and state public preschool expansion funds.

As of December 2016, 36 percent of Cleveland's children are accessing high-quality preschool. When fully implemented, PRE4CLE will ensure that all of Cleveland's preschool-aged children have access to high-quality preschool and all families have the tools and resources they need to choose the right early learning opportunity for their child.

How you can support PRE4CLE

Additional Resources are Needed to:

- Provide scholarships for families to make high-quality preschool affordable
- Provide resources to programs to strengthen quality, such as teacher education and retention, curriculum development, coaching, and family engagement
- Provide outreach and engagement to families through a comprehensive communication and recruitment campaign
- Provide connections to supports such as community resources, kindergarten transition, and family education

Join us in giving Cleveland's children a strong foundation for success in school, in the workforce, and in life by investing in PRE4CLE.

Indisputable research shows a significant return on investment (ROI) in high-quality early education in the form of reduced remedial education costs, increased school readiness, and reduced dependents on social supports during adulthood.



"PRE4CLE is a major next step in bringing the Cleveland Plan to life. PRE4CLE is part of a continuum of education improvement and attainment in the City of Cleveland that includes the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact, the Transformation Alliance for K-12, and the Higher Education Compact—all anchored by the Cleveland Plan."

Eric Gordon, CEO
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Co-Chair of PRE4CLE

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